

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ROK FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE
SECRETARY -- INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 059003 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. RANGING OVER A SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES,
THE FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSED HIS HOPE THAT KOREA WOULD
NOT BECOME A DIVISIVE ISSUE THIS YEAR EITHER AT THE UNGA
OR THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. HE REPORTED ON THE WIDEN-
ING ROK RELATIONS WITH THE NON-ALIGNED, AND ALSO DISCUSSED
SPECIFIC MATTERS INVOLVING YUGOSLAVIA, VIETNAM, NIGERIA,
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JAPAN, AND ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTEL REPORTS BILATERAL ISSUES DISCUSSED AT MEETING
MARCH 6 BETWEEN SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-JIN
AND THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS ON
OTHER MATTERS WHICH WERE RAISED.

2. YUGOSLAVIA - NOTING MARSHALL TITO'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON LATER IN THE DAY FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED THAT HIS INFORMATION SUGGESTED THAT TITO WOULD RAISE KOREAN QUESTIONS WITH THE USG. THE SECRETARY QUICKLY ASSURED PARK THAT WE WOULD REAFFIRM

OUR VIEWS TO TITO AND WOULD NOT TAKE ANY NEW POSITION WITHOUT FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE ROKG.

3. PARK REFERRED FURTHER TO THE NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING SCHEDULED FOR BELGRADE IN AUGUST AND THE PROSPECT THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD SEEK ACTIVELY TO PLACE KOREA ON THE AGENDA, THUS PERHAPS GENERATING PRESSURE FOR UNGA DEBATE LATER IN THE YEAR. PARK NOTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA AT THE SRI LANKA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE HAD BEEN RELATIVELY COOPERATIVE IN AVOIDING A HARD-LINE KOREA RESOLUTION. THE ROKG WOULD CERTAINLY PREFER NO UNGA DEBATE ON KOREA THIS YEAR, AND SECGEN WALDHEIM HAD ENDORSED THIS HOPE WHEN PARK MET WITH HIM LAST WEEK IN NEW YORK. THE SECRETARY AGREED, AND INDICATED HE WOULD SEEK TO FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WITH TITO AND ENCOURAGE YUGOSLAVIA TO CONTINUE TO EXERT A MODERATING INFLUENCE IF NORTH KOREA SOUGHT TO EXPLOIT THE KOREA ISSUE.
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4. WHILE ASSURING THE SECRETARY THAT THE ROKG HAD NO INTENTION OF ADOPTING NON-ALIGNMENT AS A POLICY, PARK REPORTED THAT SOUTH KOREA'S RELATIONS WITH NON-ALIGNED STATES HAD BEEN IMPROVING SIGNIFICANTLY. THIS DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN FACILITATED BY THE RECENT ABSENCE OF A DIVISIVE KOREA DEBATE IN THE UNGA, AND HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY ROK ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

NIGERIA

5. NIGERIA REMAINED A HOLD-OUT, HOWEVER. REFERRING TO THE PRESIDENT'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO NIGERIA, PARK SOUGHT U.S. INTERVENTION WITH NIGERIAN LEADERS TO ENCOURAGE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE ROK. SINCE RELATIONS HAD NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH GHANA, THE ROKG WAS HOPEFUL OF PERSUADING LAGOS TO OPEN FULL RELATIONS. BILATERAL TRADE WAS FLOURISHING, INCLUDING A KOREAN SHIPBUILDING CONTRACT FOR MORE THAN 100 MILLION DOLLARS. MANY LEADING NIGERIAN OFFICIALS HAD VISITED THE ROK, AND A SMALL STUDY GROUP HAD BEEN FORMED IN LAGOS TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, BUT THUS FAR NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN.

JAPAN

6. PARK REPORTED THAT KOREA'S RELATIONS WITH JAPAN WERE EXCELLENT, BUT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THIS YEAR THAT THE GOJ RATIFY THE PENDING CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT. PARK EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE COULD ENCOURAGE FURTHER JAPANESE ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH KOREA IN THE CONTEXT OF STRENGTHENING KOREAN SECURITY. HE NOTED THAT ONE-THIRD OF KOREAN EXPORTS GO TO JAPAN, AND ONE-THIRD TO THE UNITED STATES, BUT JAPAN-ROK TRADE WAS HEAVILY IN JAPAN'S FAVOR. THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE ARE IN A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH JAPAN REGARDING OPENING THEIR MARKETS FURTHER TO FOREIGN COMPETITION, AND TO THE EXTENT THIS

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OCCURS KOREA WOULD OBVIOUSLY REAP SOME OF THE ADVANTAGE. WHEN PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA COMES TO WASHINGTON IN MAY, THE SECRETARY ANTICIPATED THAT KOREA WOULD INEVITABLY BE DISCUSSED.

VIETNAM

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PAST U.S. ASSISTANCE IN SEEKING THE RELEASE OF THE THREE ROK DIPLOMATS STILL HELD BY HANOI, AND REPORTED THAT RECENTLY THE ROKG HAD BEEN WORKING UNSUCCESSFULLY THROUGH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER. THE SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS NOT A VERY GOOD TIME FOR US TO BE EFFECTIVE WITH THE VIETNAMESE, AND UNDER SECRETARY HABIB RECOMMENDED THAT THE ROK APPROACH THE JAPANESE. THE JAPANESE WERE PERHAPS THE BEST PLACED TO BE INFLUENTIAL ON THIS MATTER AT THIS TIME IN HANOI.

ISRAEL

8. JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED HIS CONCERN THAT THE RECENT ISRAELI DECISION TO CLOSE THEIR EMBASSY IN SEOUL MIGHT HAVE SIGNIFICANT REPERCUSSIONS ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES TOWARD THE ROK. THE SECRETARY DISCOUNTED THIS LINKAGE, PARTICULARLY SINCE RELATIONS WERE NOT BEING RUPTURED AND THE MOVE WAS BEING EXPLAINED ON PURELY ECONOMIC GROUNDS. MR. HABIB COMMENTED THAT THE ROKG DEFERRAL OF THE RECIPROCAL GESTURE OF OPENING A MISSION IN ISRAEL OFFERED ISRAEL REDUCED INCENTIVE TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THEIR EMBASSY IN SEOUL. VANCE

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